

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

August 24, 2006

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

County Judge Gary Black called the meeting to order.

Deputy Clerk Betsy Deaton called roll as follows:

11 JP's Present:	Adams, Allen, Harrison, Hill, Moore, Sampier, Schindler, Sheridan, Summers, Wolf, Wozniak
2 Absent:	Stephenson, *Tharp

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and Mark Lindstrom of the Bentonville Church of the Nazarene led the prayer.

MINUTES:

JP Sampier made motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 27, 2006 as mailed, seconded by JP Adams. Motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote.

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:

Assistant County Administrator Travis Harp gave a progress report on the search for a new Director of Planning and Development. He said they have received 20 applications, and the search committee has unanimously selected five candidates to contact.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

JP Wozniak stated that the Environmental Committee has forwarded a proposed nuisance abatement draft ordinance to the Committee of Thirteen. He said that after any changes are made, it will be sent to the Planning Board for public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Don Day stated that he has prepared a 13-page critique of the proposed nuisance abatement ordinance.

Frank Winscott stated that given the likelihood of Bella Vista incorporating in November, he would like to suggest that all department heads in the county be asked to prepare two budgets for 2007 in order to be prepared for either situation.

Margo Hill stated that she was pleased to see the nuisance ordinance progressing, asked the Court to pass it as quickly as possible, and thanked the Justices for continuing to work on it.

Warren Phillips stated that there is a delicate balance between good taste, bad taste, and nuisance. He said that a lot of people like to control everything around them, and asked that the Court consider requiring multiple complaints in situations where a health hazard is not present, in order to avoid situations where it is just one neighbor against another.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Proposed Resolution Granting a Waiver of the Policy as Established in Sec.2-534 the *Code of Ordinances of Benton County* Regarding Payments Within the Range for Various Positions in Various Funds and Departments; Sponsor; JP Robert Stephenson

Deputy Clerk Betsy Deaton read the proposed Resolution in full. JP Sampier made motion for approval, seconded by JP Adams. JP Summers stated that the proposed Resolution had been thoroughly discussed at the Personnel and Finance Committees and the Committee of Thirteen.

*JP Tharp entered the meeting.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas: Adams, Allen, Harrison, Hill, Moore, Sampier, Schindler, Sheridan,
Summers, Tharp, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent: Stephenson

Resolution duly adopted and assigned No. **R-2006-15**.

- (B) Proposed Resolution Granting a Waiver of the Policy as Established in Sec. 2-534 of the *Code of Ordinances of Benton County* Regarding Payment Within the Range and Hire-In Rate For the Position of Director of Planning and Development, Department 31; Sponsor: JP Robert Stephenson

Deputy Clerk Betsy Deaton read the proposed Resolution in full. JP Sheridan made motion for approval, seconded by JP Schindler. JP Summers stated that the proposed Resolution has also

been through the committee process, and they are simply trying to establish a salary range that will attract the type of person they are looking for to fill the position. JP Adams stated that the proposed range is still below the national average for counties similar in size as Benton County, and also below the average of the larger cities within the county.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas: Adams, Allen, Harrison, Hill, Moore, Sampier, Schindler, Sheridan,
Summers, Tharp, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent: Stephenson

Resolution duly adopted and assigned No. **R-2006-16**.

- (C) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2005-36 (2006 Benton County Budget) to Amend Schedule 4 Personnel and Compensation Authorization as Amended by Adding Positions, Deleting Positions, Changing Grades, and Changing Job Titles in Various Funds and Departments; Sponsor: JP Robert Stephenson

JP Summers made motion to read by title only, seconded by JP Hill. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Deputy Clerk Betsy Deaton read the proposed Appropriation Ordinance by title only. JP Adams made motion for approval, seconded by JP Tharp. JP Summers stated that the proposed appropriation ordinance has also been through three committees, and that they initially turned down all requests for new positions until they were made aware that the new positions in the Assessor's and Collector's offices were needed in order to staff the new office in Rogers. He said that they have also adopted the practice of examining all departments to make sure that internal equity is being achieved, and complimented Human Resources Director Barbara Ludwig for her excellent work in bringing forward the positions that needed to be adjusted.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas: Adams, Allen, Harrison, Hill, Moore, Sampier, Schindler, Sheridan,
Summers, Tharp, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent: Stephenson

Appropriation Ordinance duly adopted and assigned No. **O-2006-16**.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JP Allen stated that an Employee Grievance Hearing has been set for August 30, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. and the committee has been notified.

JP Summers announced that the Finance Committee will be meeting on September 5, 2006 at 2:30 p.m., and the Committee of Thirteen will be meeting on September 12, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

County Judge Gary Black announced that an Employee Appreciation Cookout will be held September 8, 2006 at Dave Peel Park, and that all County offices will be closed from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on that day. He also announced that the 2nd Annual Show-and-Shine will be held around the Bentonville Square on September 30, 2006, and that the County Surplus Property Auction will be September 23, 2006.

JP Wolf announced that the Frisco Festival will be taking place during the upcoming weekend in downtown Rogers.

JP Allen announced that his lost wallet was found and turned in to the EZ Mart in Cave Springs with everything still inside and he would like to identify the boy who turned it in and offer him a reward.

There being no further business to come before the court, upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Slinkard,
County Clerk

Prepared by: Betsy Deaton